

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 SCCT-01 /082 W

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R 071628Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2676

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 5509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, FR

SUBJ: BASQUE ISSUE: GOVT SUCCESS AGAINST ETA
AND PROBLEMS WITH FRANCE

REF : MADRID 5162

1. THE DIRGEN OF SECURITY (DGS) ISSUED A STATEMENT
AUG 4 DESCRIBING TWO SEPARATE POLICE ROUNDUPS OF ETA
TERRORISTS JULY 30 IN MADRID AND IN BARCELONA IN WHICH
FOUR KEY ETA MEMBERS WERE DETAINED AND ONE KILLED. ONE OF
THOSE ARRESTED WAS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN CARRERO BLANCO
ASSASSINATION AND ALSO IN CONTACT WITH URUGUYAN TUPAMAROS
AND IRA. THE POLICE INTERROGATION REPORTEDLY BROUGHT OUT
THAT ETA WAS PLANNING TO ARRANGE ESCAPE OF APPROX 40 ETA
PRISONERS HELD IN PROVINCIAL JAIL OF SEGOVIA. DGS HAS
ALSO STATED THAT DURING STATE OF EXCEPTION IN TWO BASQUE
PROVINCES (APRIL 25-JULY 25), THERE WERE 317 ARRESTS OF
WHICH 114 WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. THE GDS STATEMENTS
LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT HAS UNCOVERED AND
REPPRESSED MAJOR SEGMENT OF ETA TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.

2. ACCORDING TO SPANISH MEDIA, FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
NORMALLY STATIONED ON SPANISH SIDE OF BORDER AT IRUN TO
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EXPEDITE BORDER CROSSING WERE WITHDRAWN AUG 5

FOLLOWING INCIDENT IN WHICH SPANISH POLICE SEIZED SPANIARD WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE WITH FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AFTER HAVING BEEN DISCOVERED HIDING IN TRUNK OF CAR. FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY REFUSED AT FIRST TO TURN OVER SPANIARD BUT THEN WITHDREW ACROSS BRIDGE TO FRENCH SIDE OF BORDER. MEDIA REPORTS SAY THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION BY FRENCHMEN AND SPANISH EXILES ON FRENCH SIDE OF BORDER IN WHICH SPANISH FLAG ON INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE WAS PULLED DOWN AND THROWN INTO BEHOVIA RIVER. INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC WAS REPORTEDLY HELD UP FOR ONE HOUR AND A HALF LATE AUG 4 BUT RETURNED TO NORMAL EARLY AUG 5. FRENCH AUTHORITIES WERE REPORTEDLY NETTLED BY HEAVY-HANDED METHODS OF SPANISH POLICE TO SEIZE SPANIARD. OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE ALSO REPORTED THAT FRENCH MINISTER OF INTERIOR PONIATOWSKI MADE BORDER CHECK VIA HELICOPTER AUG 5.

3. IN DISCUSSING BORDER INCIDENT WITH ACTING DIRGEN FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN MFA AUGUST 7 EMBOFFS WERE TOLD THAT GOS EXPECTED MATTER TO BE RESOLVED LOCALLY WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES. MEANWHILE, HE SAID, FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICERS WERE INSPECTING DOCUMENTS AND EXAMINING INCOMING SPANISH VEHICLES VERY CLOSELY CAUSING DELAYS IN BORDER CROSSINGS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES WERE VERY "IRRITATED" ABOUT INCIDENT. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT PRESENT AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR BORDER CROSSINGS NEEDED TO BE REVISED ADDING THAT THIS WAS NOT FIRST INCIDENT, ALBEIT PROBABLY THE MOST SERIOUS ONE.
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